

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Friday, April 11, 2025

A Candidate May Be Hard to Find (but the clock is ticking)

President Drake is stepping down at the end of this academic year. The Regents' search committee to replace him last met on March 7. But there was no unveiling of his replacement at the subsequent meetings of the board March 19-21. And no announcement of a replacement has been announced since. In fact, the search committee has no new meeting scheduled.

[EdSource](#) has a story about the search:

...UC's board of regents is looking for the next person to fill the role and replace President Michael V. Drake, who plans to step down at the end of the academic year. But in the months since the search began, the job has only grown more complicated and pressured as a result of Donald Trump's election and his policies affecting funding, racial diversity, student protests and many other aspects of higher education.

"I think the university is dealing with more significant challenges all at the same time than they probably have in the last 50 years, 60 years," said John Pérez, the former state Assembly speaker who served on the university's board of regents for a decade, including a stint as chair, before stepping down last year. "My friends on the regents have a difficult task to find the person to lead through this moment." ...

Full story at <https://edsource.org/2025/as-university-of-california-searches-for-new-president-trumps-policies-make-the-position-more-difficult/729986>.

Perhaps what's most interesting about the story is what isn't there. There's no mention of even a rumor that there are some top candidates in the mill.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:



Thursday, April 10, 2025

Academic Council Statement: The Defense of the University



Academic Council Statement: The Defense of the University

April 8, 2025

Higher education is under direct and sustained attack. Deliberate and systemic shifts in the federal government's approach to higher education—which include defunding crucial research, intervening in academic affairs, and policing expression—will have profound downstream consequences, threatening the integrity of knowledge production and the public role of universities in a democratic society. The mission of the University of California is thus existentially at risk.

Unity will be critical in the weeks, months, and years ahead, as the University of California fights to preserve its capacity to prepare the next generation of the workforce. These graduates will be leading health care providers, educators, authors, entrepreneurs, and innovators. Given the opportunity, they will conduct the research leading to breakthroughs in science and technology, new treatments for disease, new forms of creative expression, and new insights about the world we inhabit.

Let us remember that our university played a foundational role in the development of the Internet, satellite communications, nuclear energy, biotechnology, agronomy, and many other domains that have substantially improved our collective well-being. If our research and teaching

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Concerns Regarding UCOP Cybersecurity Mandate
- CUCFA and AFT call upon UC to immediately address Student Visa Revocations
- Federal Investigations of UC Faculty Members
- We Support AB-672, A First Step Towards Protecting PERB's Authority
- Emergency Day of Action March 19, Noon

Remaking the University

- Will the California State Legislature Accept Governor Newsom's Manufactured Austerity for Four-Year Higher Education? (Guest Post) - 4/28/2025
- Are Universities Preparing to Fight Back? (Guest Post) - 4/25/2025
- National Day of Action: Who Rules the Academy, and How To Fight Back (Guest Post) - 4/23/2025

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Topics

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mission is compromised, what future discoveries will be lost, and at what cost to the public health and welfare of all Californians?

The Academic Senate is one of the pillars of shared governance of the University of California, along with the Regents and the administration. Policies and practices of shared governance have served the institution well during previous crises, and we will have even greater need of them as we move forward. The urgency and complexity of the problems we confront necessitate collaborative efforts. We need to stand, speak, and work together—informed by our shared, fundamental principles—in order to guard our mission. This approach requires that the Regents, President, and Chancellors of the University of California actively engage faculty and leverage their expertise to secure a strong future for the University and the many constituencies it serves. Now is the time for bravery to override fear.

We thus call on the Regents, President, and Chancellors of the University of California to expend every effort, commit necessary resources, and use all legal measures to defend our ability to conduct consequential, transformative research and provide high-quality teaching and mentoring. We call on our leaders to ensure the safety and privacy of students, faculty, and staff. And we further call on our leaders to protect academic freedom and faculty control of the curriculum—proactively and publicly.

While current events may seem shockingly unprecedented, there are historical parallels. From these we learn that the future is contingent upon how we respond now. We must come together as a community to strengthen our ability to fulfill our institutional mission and uphold our commitment to the state of California. These collective efforts extend to working together with colleagues at other universities to envision and implement plans for preserving higher education's ability to contribute to the common good.

Let the future historical record show that we rose to the challenge of defending the University of California, and we did so in ways that did not betray its core values.

The distinctive mission of the University is to serve society as a center of higher learning, providing long-term societal benefits through transmitting advanced knowledge, discovering new knowledge, and functioning as an active working repository of organized knowledge. That obligation, more specifically, includes undergraduate education, graduate and professional education, research, and other kinds of public service, which are shaped and bounded by the central pervasive mission of discovering and advancing knowledge.

Fiat Lux.

University of California

Systemwide Academic Senate Council, 2024-2025

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Source: https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/academic-council-statement-defense-of-university-april-2025.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM

No comments:

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [UC](#), [UC Regents](#)

Nobody Knows - At UC-SD or Elsewhere - Part 2 (Now we know something)

From the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#): *UC San Diego is in far deeper financial trouble than it had previously disclosed and could face half a billion dollars in annual budget cuts, it says in a new forecast. Chancellor Pradeep Khosla revealed the situation in a public statement issued late Tuesday (April 1), adding that UC San Diego might have to slash its \$9 billion budget by as much as 12.5%. Reductions on that scale would seriously hurt teaching and research and threaten jobs at the county's second-largest employer, and could bring to an end one of the longest and biggest university expansions in the nation.*



Khosla had already said in February that UC San Diego expected to lose \$150 million in funding that it had expected to receive from the NIH to help pay overhead costs in research, plus face a \$50 million state budget cut. But the size of the worst-case financial hit more than doubled in the risk analysis the university finished this week. As a result, UC San Diego has indefinitely postponed construction of two big planned research buildings, one on the main campus in La Jolla and the other at its hospital in Hillcrest. Their joint cost: about \$565 million...

Full story at <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2025/04/02/ucsd-braces-for-500m-in-annual-cuts-shelves-some-building-plans/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:15 AM

No comments:

Labels: [health care](#), [politics](#), [UC-San Diego](#)

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Period of Adjustment - Part 2

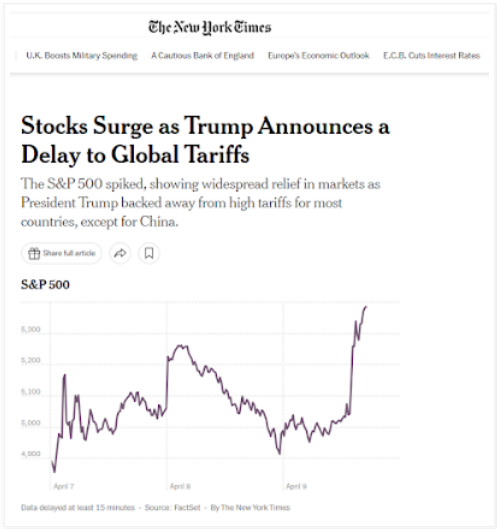
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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association



In an earlier post, when the Trump tariffs tanked the stock market, we suggested that the tanking might have more of an effect to "adjust" current policy than the various protests which recently took place.* There were lots of news reports that the president didn't care about the financial markets. But apparently, he does care.

What does that mean for the university? We don't have a lever comparable to the stock market. And, indeed, there may be an attempt to shift attention away from the tariff turmoil to something else. We could be the something else. So, as we said earlier today, let's not hand the folks in DC a hammer.**

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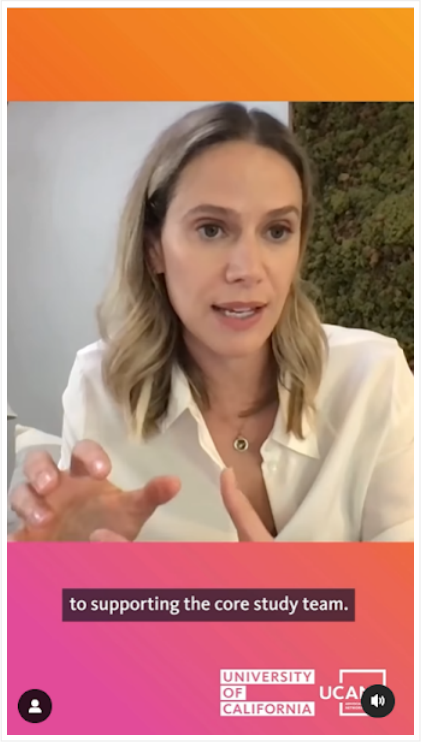
*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/04/period-of-adjustment.html>.

**<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/04/can-we-stop-giving-them-hammer.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [11:35 AM](#) No comments:     

Labels: [politics](#), [UC](#)

Indirect



We noted yesterday the UC lawsuit against NIH cuts. There is also a PR effort on social media by UC concerning such matters. Below is a video on indirect costs. How many people see these messages and how effective they are, yours truly doesn't know.

Source: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DHeANobJHCb/> or <https://ia600105.us.archive.org/29/items/newsom-1-2-25-new-laws/UC%20video%20on%20indirect%20costs%203-21-2025.mp4>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [health care](#), [politics](#), [UC](#)

Can we stop giving them the hammer?



It's clear that the administration in Washington wants to take a hammer to higher education. The problem we have is that we keep giving them the hammer. From the [Sacramento Bee](#):

UC Davis officials launched an independent review of a violent clash between a conservative organization and a group of counterprotestors that broke out on campus this week and seen tens of millions of times on social media, according to a university statement issued Friday. The UC Davis chapter of Turning Point USA, a conservative nonprofit with thousands of members across the nation, invited a speaker Thursday [April 3] for a 1 p.m. talk.

Before right-wing commentator Brandon Tatum began his remarks at UC Davis' Memorial Union Quad, a group of about 30 demonstrators confronted Turning Point USA members. The group of individuals — many of whom had their faces concealed behind masks — pulled down a tent of Turning Point USA and the shoving began, according to a statement by the university and videos of the scuffle posted on social media.



UC Davis Chancellor Gary May said in a Friday [April 4] statement that it remains unclear if the "masked perpetrators were outside agitators or individuals affiliated with the university." He condemned the violence and said Turning Point USA members were peacefully expressing their views. "Regardless of their affiliation, all steps will be taken to hold those who were responsible accountable for their actions," May said. If UC Davis students or employees were involved in the attack, May said, they will face disciplinary action outside of any criminal inquiries.*

*UC Davis said Thursday **no arrests had been made**, and that the incident is under investigation. A university spokesperson in a statement also condemned the violence and said students have the right to invite speakers to*

express their views as well as to peacefully protest. Campus police did document one report of assault as of late Thursday, the university said in a statement...

Full story at <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/crime/article303526776.html>.

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*Chancellor May's statement is at <https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/statement-chancellor-gary-s-may-april-3-incident>.

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Comment from yours truly: It would have been possible to have a peaceful protest - or simply to set up a counter-exhibit - without violence and violation of campus rules and laws. Going beyond is giving the hammer. No consequences for going beyond, other than an angry statement by the chancellor, is giving the hammer. Don't give the hammer. It's not complicated.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:15 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [politics](#), [UC-Davis](#)

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Lawsuit Against NIH Grant Terminations



From [Inside Higher Ed](#): *Individual university researchers, a public health advocacy organization and a union representing more than 120,000 higher education workers are suing the National Institutes of Health after the agency terminated more than \$2.4 billion in grants it claims support “non-scientific” projects that “no longer” effectuate agency priorities.*

“Plaintiffs and their members are facing the loss of jobs, staff, and income. Patients enrolled in NIH studies led by Plaintiffs face abrupt cancellations of treatment in which they have invested months of time with no explanation or plan for how to mitigate the harm,” according to a complaint of the lawsuit filed Wednesday afternoon. “As a result of Defendants’ Directives scientific advancement will be delayed, treatments will go undiscovered, human health will be compromised, and lives will be lost.” ...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/science-research-policy/2025/04/02/researchers-higher-ed-union-fight-nih-grant>.

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Note: The lawsuit is at:

<https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.mad.282821/gov.uscourts.mad.282821.1.0.pdf>.

Yours truly could not find any individual plaintiffs from UCLA or UC.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:11 AM No comments:

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